

# Recognitions at November 2009 State Board Meeting

The National Science Teachers Association is the largest professional organization in the world. It promotes excellence and innovation in science teaching and learning. The association's Teacher Academy was created to promote quality instruction, support teacher confidence and classroom excellence and improve content knowledge through training and mentoring for early-career science teachers.

Academy officials work to help reduce the high attrition rate among science instructors who are new to the classroom. The association's 2009 Fellows were chosen on the basis of several criteria, including their strong interest in growing as professional science educators.

Past Teacher Academy participants have said that the experience adds to their personal growth as teachers and translates to their students. In total, 185 middle and secondary science teachers were chosen from among hundreds of applicants across the country for the year-long professional development program.

- **Teacher Academy Fellows**

State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex (right) and State Board member Dr. Gerrita Postlewait (left) congratulate 2009 Fellows Sean Uthe and Linda Hellstein (in center of photo). Uthe, a teacher at the Academy for Technology and Academics in Horry County, was accompanied by his school's director, Ben Hardee (next to Dr. Postlewait). Hellstein teaches biology at Ridgeview High School in



Richland School District Two and was accompanied by her mentor teacher, Patty Drews (next to Dr. Rex.). Both Uthe and Hellstein have made a long-term commitment to give their very best to their students – and to society – as they inspire the scientists of tomorrow.

Uthe and Hellstein each receive membership packages, online mentoring with trained educators who teach in the same discipline, and the opportunity to participate in a variety of web-based professional training activities, including web seminars. In addition, they will receive financial support to attend and participate in the 2009 National Conference on Science Education in New Orleans.

- **National Teachers of English Early Career Teacher of Color Award of Distinction**

Kanelia Cannon, a teacher at A.L. Corbett Middle School in Wagener, has been recognized nationally in just her third year on the job. She's one of only two teachers in the country to receive the National Council of Teachers of English Early Career Teacher of Color Award of Distinction.

A native of Wagener in Aiken County, Cannon graduated from Wagener-Salley High School in 2001 and went to Fort Valley State University in Georgia, where she majored in English and worked to

become a teacher. She received a scholarship for graduate school and enrolled at the University of Minnesota to pursue a master's degree in English education.

The University of Minnesota had established a program to encourage minority enrollment. Cannon entered the graduate program with a friend and had to adjust to often being the only female African American in her classes. She returned home and now shares those experiences with her middle school students.

Cannon teaches all the eighth-grade English classes – high school-level English I and transitional English where students can receive elective credit. She tries to open her students up to new ideas and talks about the importance of analyzing, doing media study and writing and speaking in standard American English.

Cannon wants students to enjoy learning and to keep going forward on a positive track. All of her English I students passed the end-of-course test last spring.

State Superintendent Jim Rex (left) and State Board chair Tim Moore (right) congratulated Cannon at the State Board recognition ceremony. She was accompanied by Corbett Middle School principal, Dr. Deborah Bass (second from left in photo).

